

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lisa C. Glass, public relations, RNL, 303-575-8583, lisa.glass@rnldesign.com

South Bend Public Transportation Corporation (Transpo) Facility is first *Administration, Maintenance and Operations* Facility in the U.S. to achieve LEED®-NC Platinum

September 6, 2011, South Bend, Ind./Denver, Colo. – The **Emil ‘Lucky’ Reznik Administration, Maintenance & Operations Facility** has been certified LEED® Platinum for New Construction (NC) by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a non-profit organization dedicated to sustainable building design and construction. **RNL**, in association with **Forum Architects** of South Bend, Indiana, and **Maintenance Design Group (MDG)**, designed the **Reznik Facility** for the South Bend Public Transportation Corporation (TRANSPO).

Dick Shiffer, AIA, LEED AP, RNL, principal and transportation market lead, expressed his enthusiasm for the **Reznik Facility** saying, *“this is the first Platinum certified structure of its kind because our South Bend Public Transportation Corporation-client created an environment that empowered the team to design a sustainable, functional facility that will benefit and educate the public while establishing a safe and comfortable space for employees.”*

The **Reznik Facility** achieved 52 LEED points, including those for site selection, energy, materials and resources and innovation. At 164,200 square-feet the facility is designed to embody the natural connection between sustainability and public transportation. The **Reznik Administration, Maintenance and Operations Facility** provides expansive, daylit spaces, promotes transparency and works to diminish the boundaries between the interior and exterior. By embracing daylighting the design reduces the need to expend energy to provide artificial lighting and a ground source heat pump system, which uses the ambient temperature of the Earth, supplies heating and cooling to all regularly occupied administration, operations, and maintenance office areas.

To compliment the many sustainable features in the **Reznik Facility** and to promote facility and community education, a digital display inside the lobby provides up-to-date information about the amount of energy the building is creating from its 92 kW photovoltaic roof panels. The system also tracks the amount of potable water saved from water-reducing lavatory fixtures and the facility’s recycled-water bus wash system, as well as the amount of storm water that has been detained on site.

This new era was articulated by the client. Transpo wanted the facility to exemplify the interaction between program, function, iconic design and sustainability while highlighting the transportation services they provide to the citizens of South Bend and Mishawaka.

“We wanted to be leaders, not followers”, said John Leszczynski, Chairman of the Board for Transpo, *“without forsaking the site’s rich history.”*

In response to the client’s directive, the design team worked to create a productive work environment while engaging the user and the public in an educational dialog about the environmental benefits of sustainable architecture and public transportation. The team chose materials and building systems based on program and functional requirements with the need to balance *transparency* and *durability* to create a signature facility. The site was once home to Studebaker’s manufacturing operations and the Reznik facility’s 50-year-plus lifespan design mirrors the Studebaker—vehicles prized by collectors for their high level of design and quality.

The **Reznik Facility** is one of 35,000 projects in all 50 states and 91 countries participating in the LEED system, comprising more than 4.5 billion square feet of construction space. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is the preeminent program for rating the design, construction and operation of green buildings.

The Washington, D.C.-based **U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)** is a 501 c3 non-profit organization committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. With a community comprising 79 local affiliates, more than 16,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 160,000 LEED Professional Credential holders, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to contribute \$554 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product from 2009-2013. USGBC leads an unlikely diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students.

Forum Architects, LLC is located in South Bend, Indiana, and is a mid-sized, full-service, architectural firm. Our design expertise is in the areas of commercial, industrial, and educational structures, along with growing involvement in health-care, religious, and multi-family housing facilities. Forty plus years of experience is shared between the current partners, who are also LEED accredited. Our firm delivers award winning projects with diversified staff talent, the use of the latest techniques in construction document production and presentation, coupled with sound, innovative, and practical design. For more information, please visit www.forumarchitectsllc.com.

RNL is a global, full-service design firm specializing in sustainable, integrated design. Founded in 1956, **RNL** offers a continuum of design services, including architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, urban design and planning. **RNL** has offices in Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Washington, D.C., and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. In May of 2011, **RNL** was ranked #20 on *Architect* magazine’s The Architect 50, an annual ranking of American architecture firms. For more information, please visit www.rnldesign.com.